

Herman Baumann

Madison, WI 53705

June 10, 2013

Gov. Scott Walker
Office of the Governor
115 East Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Gov. Walker:

I am a less-government, lower taxes, Second Amendment-loving, business-owning conservative. I also proudly serve on the Board of the Wisconsin Center for Investigative Journalism (WCIJ). That's why I was surprised to hear WCIJ **incorrectly** characterized as a "liberal organization" by some members of the State Legislature.

I can assure you that WCIJ has a non-partisan, stick-to-the-facts newsroom that diligently checks the accuracy of its articles -- and it educates and trains students while it does its work. WCIJ provides these educational services using no taxpayer funds -- it is totally self-funded through grants and private donations.

It is also important to note that the value of the educational services and paid internships that WCIJ provides to students far more than offsets the value of the roughly 400 square feet of office space that it receives from UW-Madison. Besides, students primarily use these offices.

Free education and real world experience that directly leads to jobs for students after graduation -- that's a beautiful, **conservative concept** that I enthusiastically endorse!

Based on the points above, I strongly encourage you to eliminate the provision in the state budget amendment that calls for WCIJ to be removed from campus and that would require all UW staff to disassociate from WCIJ. Passing this legislation would damage educational opportunities for students and make it more difficult for them to find jobs.

My business card is enclosed if you have questions about WCIJ or my role on its board.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Herman Baumann